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to a minimum the stoppage period so that the machinery can resume work as quickly as possible.

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Technical breakdowns are caused not so much by defects in the design of the machine as by the inferior quality of raw materials used for parts, for example, breakage of parts made of too soft a steel. The bits of drills and combines damage too quickly because of the poor quality of the steel. Parts for electric motors are often manufactured of unsuitable materials. The main reason for idleness of machinery after a technical breakdown is the shortage of spare parts. This lack assumes such proportions that at times damaged combines are taken to pieces in repair workshops in order that the parts may be used to repair other machinery. The new machinery installed to replace machinery under repair merely maintains the mechanization potential of a mine but does not increase it.

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